

Navy Seaman Johans Chavarro Jr.

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News Feature

Fort Meade Run Series' Thanksgiving Turkey Trot 5K Run proves success as hundreds gather to compete.

## SUCCESS

On your mark! Get set!

On Nov. 17 the Fort Meade Run Series' Turkey Trot 5K Run brought together approximately 300 participants during a time many people spend indoors with close relatives.

Sponsored by the Army Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation office here, the Fort Meade Run Series conducts 5K and 10K races on post once a month throughout the year.

All of the races in the run series also include a one-mile walk for young children or those who simply want to enjoy the atmosphere.

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SUCCESS 2/2/2

Averaging approximately 250 to 400 participants per event, the goal of the Fort Meade Run Series is to provide a way for families and service members to come together and have fun, said Donna Ball, a recreation aide at Murphy Field House here who helps with set up and organization on race days.

“Each race has a different theme,” said Ball. “It really helps keep the kids and families involved and have fun with.”

For the Turkey Trot, the race winners received frozen turkeys in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Many participants stayed behind socializing even after the festivities were over, said Everett Carr, the facility manager at Gaffney Fitness Center here.

In previous races, children and adult participants ran in costumes for October’s Ghosts, Ghouls, and Goblins 5K Run and also in their favorite football jersey during September’s Football Fan Fair 5K Run, said Carr.

These races are some of the most popular races since they allow the participants to embrace the theme and have fun with the race, said Carr.

At the end of each race, race officials give out medals to the

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SUCCESS 3/3/3

children and winners in each age bracket.

“You can see them showing it to their families. They get really excited,” said Eric Clayborn, a recreation aide at Gaffney Fitness Center here who worked the event.

The upcoming Reindeer 5K Run on Dec. 15 is scheduled to yield the largest attendance as it is the last race of the year, said Clayborn.

“The antlers and red noses we give out are usually a big hit,” said Carr. “Some of the children wear them throughout the entire race.”

So whether it’s a race against the clock or just a stroll with friends, it’ll be difficult to escape the company at a Fort Meade Run Series race.

Families will be there. Children will be there. Service members will be there. Readyng themselves on the starting line. Waiting for their cue.

Go!